

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Mar. 17 - 23, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 74



Weekly wrap-up

Governor signs property tax relief and reform bill

Mar. 19, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels has signed historic legislation that will provide significant property tax relief now and permanent protection against future property tax increases. During a ceremony at the Indiana State House, Speaker of the House B. Patrick Bauer, Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, Senate President Pro Tempore David Long, and Daniels signed HEA 1001 flanked by dozens of legislators who overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan measure last week.

"I want to thank the leaders and all members of the legislature who worked so hard for several months to make this possible and for the cooperative nature of that process, the bipartisanship that prevailed throughout, the overwhelming bipartisan majorities that finally voted for this bill and for the companion resolution," said Daniels. "But I want to say even to those who finally couldn't bring themselves to support it that I appreciate their spirit of cooperation to the debate. The debate was a fair one and an open one, and it was conducted without rancor, and I think in really the best spirit of our democracy."

[Listen to the HEA 1001 signing ceremony](#)



Mar. 19, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined Speaker of the Indiana House B. Patrick Bauer, Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, Indiana Senate President Pro-Tem David Long and other members of the General Assembly at a signing ceremony for House Enrolled Act 1001.

This year, Hoosiers will have an average property tax cut of more than 30 percent; a total of \$870 million in relief will be provided. Beginning in 2010, homeowner property taxes will be capped at 1 percent of a home's assessed value, apartments and agriculture

land will be capped at 2 percent of assessed value, and business property will be capped at 3 percent of assessed value. Once fully implemented, the plan delivers \$1.72 in tax cuts for each \$1 of new sales tax.

"Any legislation this significant takes compromise. And sometimes compromise is a little painful. But you have to have a process to mitigate that within the bill, and I call this a work in progress because we have eight months to see how it works out," said Bauer. "But we know one thing. It's going to be about a 38 percent property tax cut for residents. That's what we said was the prime goal this session, and that's what we did."

"After months of study and discussion, we have given Hoosiers true, permanent property tax reform. HEA 1001 is perhaps the most

comprehensive and innovative property tax reform bill in the country," said Long.

The plan includes the four elements the governor said were critical last October, when he introduced a comprehensive property tax plan: immediate and significant relief; permanent protection; limits on local government spending; and improved accuracy and fairness in the assessment of property value.

"We'll make law that inaugurates a new era of taxpayer protection in this state. It puts taxpayers first, taxpayer affordability first, and I believe gives Indiana yet another edge on its competition as America's best place to own a home or create a business," said Daniels.

Senate Joint Resolution 1, which would make the property tax caps passed in HEA 1001 permanent for Hoosier taxpayers through a constitutional amendment was signed earlier the same day.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).



Did you know...

...there is an easy way to keep track of bills sent to the governor by the General Assembly? Visit Governor Daniels' 2008 [Bill Watch](#).

Mar. 20, 2008— Governor Daniels met students from the Evansville Signature School after a meeting of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) board of directors meeting in Evansville.



Mr./Miss Math & Science

[Apply](#) for the Hoosier High School Math and Science Awards

Governor tours southern Indiana flood damage

Mar. 20, 2008— Heavy rains left some areas of southern Indiana underwater Thursday, but Hoosiers pulled together to help one another, said Governor Daniels after touring flood damage in Orange County.

"Once again Hoosiers proved that they come to each other's aide in times of trouble," said Daniels.

The governor conducted an aerial assessment of flood damage from a State Police helicopter before landing in French Lick to take a closer look. On the ground, Governor Daniels received a briefing from Joe Wainscott, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

According to Wainscott, about one half of the county's roads were closed due to flooding. Eleven people spent Wednesday night in a shelter, and several businesses had been evacuated.

The governor remained confident that the waters would soon recede and cleanup could begin. "Fortunately we've crested a little more quickly this time than some previous events. It's already on the way down," said Daniels.

Before leaving, Daniels took time to thank local responders. "The people of Indiana are on top of it, as tends to be the case," said Daniels. "Our first responders have proved their professionalism at both the state and local level."

[Listen](#) to Governor Daniels assessment of flood damage in southern Indiana



Mar. 20, 2008- After conducting an aerial assessment of regional flood damage, Governor Daniels met local first responders in French Lick to thank them for their efforts.



Mar. 20, 2008- Governor Daniels met with Seymour residents during a breakfast stop at Betty's Townhouse Café.

Did you know...

...Governor Daniels' website has an interactive map of *your* county? [Click here](#) to see what's happening in your community.

Hoosiers in the State House



Mar. 19, 2008- House Enrolled Act 1001, which provides significant property tax relief and taxpayer protection, was signed into law during a ceremony held in the State House rotunda. Following the signing, Governor Daniels visited with Hoosiers gathered in the south atrium of the State House. Pictured left to right: Senate interns Jessica Moyer, Libby Simmons, Mehek Manawalia and Governor Mitch Daniels.



Mar. 19, 2008— Following the signing of House Enrolled Act 1001, Governor Daniels visited with Anderson Eastside Elementary 4th graders in the south atrium of the State House.

Click [here](#) to learn more about HEA 1001

The company, which supplies a variety of buns and muffins to industry giants like McDonalds and Sara Lee, will invest more than \$1.5 million to add 20,000 square-foot of production space at the company's 700 W. Water Street facility.

"More and more companies are recognizing that Indiana is a great place to do business, and we're glad New Horizons Baking Company selected Indiana for this expansion," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

New Horizons, which currently employs more than 80 associates at its Fremont facility, plans to hire additional production and sanitation associates in 2008 ahead of the expanded facility opening in the fall of 2008.

[Read the Release](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS:**Fire Protection Company to more than double its South Bend workforce**

Mar. 20, 2008- Ryan Fireprotection, a designer, manufacturer and installer of custom fire protection systems, announced it will expand its Northern Indiana operations in South Bend, creating more than 25 new jobs.

The Noblesville, Ind.-headquartered company designs, installs and maintains fire sprinkler systems throughout the Midwest and plans to grow its South Bend operations to meet the growing demand for its products and services in the region.

"Ryan Fireprotection is a home-grown Hoosier company that continues to create new opportunities for Hoosiers across the state," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

The company currently employs 17 associates in South Bend and plans to begin hiring managers, pipe fitters, engineers and fabricators as early as the fourth quarter of 2008.

"We are very excited about growing in South Bend," said Dan Ryan, president of Ryan Fireprotection, "locating here will provide opportunities for our current staff and for potential employees. We sincerely appreciate the support we have been given from both the city of South Bend and the State of Indiana."

Founded in 1989, Ryan Fireprotection has become one of the leading designers and installers of fire protection systems in the Midwest. In addition to the South Bend facility, the company also operates engineering and contracting offices in Valparaiso, Fort Wayne and Noblesville, Indiana.

[Read the Release](#)

Commercial bakery to boost its northeast Indiana employment

Mar. 21, 2008- New Horizons Baking Company, a specialty supplier of bread products to the food service and consumer markets, will expand its production operations in Fremont, creating nearly 20 new jobs.

A look ahead...

Governor Daniels will travel to Michigan City, Valparaiso, South Bend, Shipshewana, Fort Wayne and Muncie this week.